(b) whether the State Government had sought Central help in 1999-2000 and also during the current financial year for getting the World Bank loan to tackle the problem;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to help the Government of Orissa in the matter; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Orissa is reported to have submitted the proposals in this regard to the Ministry of Water Resources.

(c) and (d) For mitigation of natural calamities including floods, Central share of Rs. 42.50 crore was released to Orissa during 1999-2000 under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and Rs. 828.15 crore was released to the State during 1999-2000 under National Fund for Calamity Relief in the wake of floods and cyclones, For 2000-01, Central share of Rs. 30.70 crore has been released under CRF.

National Pulses Development Project

1268. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pulses Development Project is being implemented in every State;

(b) if so, the fund allocation made to the State of Orissa for the development of pulses during last three years; and

(c) the various steps taken during these years for development made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. National Pulses Development Project is being implemented in 25 States and 2 Union Territories.

(b) The fund allocated to the Government of Orissa during the last three years is given below:

Year	Fund Allocated *(Rs. in lakh)*
1997-98	180.00
1998-99	180.00
1999-2000	180.00

(c) In order to increase the production of pulses in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 25 States and 2 UTs. The scheme envisage financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minikits, rhyzobium culture, micro-nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, PP equipments etc. besides field demonstration and farmers trainings are being organised for the effective transfer of improve pulses production technology.

Degradation of Marine Resources

1269. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the marine resource in the country is not being fully tapped;

(b) whether the available vast marine resources are being degraded due to lack of systematic planning in the exploitation;

(c) if so, the action contemplated by Government to stop further degradation and to rehabilitate damaged marine resources; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The present annual marine fish production in the country is estimated at 2.70 million tonnes (1998-99), which is around 70 per cent of the marine fisheries resource potential of 3.9 million tonnes. The stock assesment studies conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), have indicated that exploitation within the 50 metre depth zone has reached its optimal level with respect to many of our commercially important marine fishery resources. Further exploitation and additional yield is possible only by diversification of the fishing efforts to offshore and deep sea areas.

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